

**TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**LEISURE and ARTS ADVISORY BOARD**

**19 May 2009**

**Report of the Chief Leisure Officer and the  
Cabinet Member for Leisure, Youth and Arts**

**Part 1- Public**

**Matters for Recommendation to Cabinet - Non-Key Decision (Decision may be taken  
by the Cabinet Member)**

**1 KENT CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN 2008-2011**

**Summary**

**This report advises Members of the new Kent Children and Young People's Plan 2008-2011 which sets the direction for the Kent Children's Trust for the next three years.**

**1.1 Background**

1.1.1 The Kent Children's Trust was set up in 2006 following the earlier publication of Every Child Matters, Next Steps and the implementation of the Children Act 2004. Its main aim was to bring together all services for children and young people and to focus on improving life choices for all children and young people based on the duty to co-operate in the Children Act 2004. This Council's Chief Executive sits on the Trust, representing the district authorities within the county.

1.1.2 The Trust introduced 23 Local Children's Services Partnerships across Kent from September 2008 in order to draw on the strengths of all public and voluntary services. The Local Partnerships assess need, make plans and provide services to support the implementation of the Kent Children and Young People's Plan 2008-2011.

**1.2 Kent Children and Young People's Plan 2008-2011**

1.2.1 The Kent Children and Young People's Plan is the single, strategic, overarching plan for all services affecting children and young people across Kent. The aim of the Plan is to identify where better multi-agency and partnership working can significantly improve outcomes for children and young people over a three year period. The Plan is a comprehensive document and I have, therefore, not included it with these papers, but copies can be made available on request.

1.2.2 Following a process of analysis of all the relevant data the Kent Children's Trust Board identified eight priorities that represent the Trust's vision for change for the next three years. These priorities are listed in **[Annex 1]**. Members will note that

this Council has a particular role to play linked to Priorities 4 (housing), 6 (leisure activities) and 8 (safety).

1.2.3 In addition to the priorities the Trust also identified some key enabling activities to be addressed to secure delivery of the priorities including:

- Integrated service delivery teams
- Workforce planning and development
- Integrated processes and procedures
- Involvement and participation of children, young people and their families.

1.2.4 The Borough Council has a long-standing and successful track record of working with partners to deliver improved services for young people, particularly related to positive activities. In addition, following the introduction of the Children Act 2004 and the new statutory duty related to this Act, steps have been taken to ensure relevant officers have undertaken training in the new integrated processes developed at county level. Further staff development is planned as the new systems come on track during 2009. The Borough Council has officers representing the organisation on both Local Children's Services Partnerships, which form the operational arm of the Kent Children's Trust. The involvement of children, young people and families is secured through a variety of means, including user surveys and the Borough's Youth Forum.

### **1.3 Legal Implications**

1.3.1 The Council has statutory duties to safeguard children under the Children Act 2004.

1.3.2 Under Section 10 of the Children Act 2004, the Council has a statutory duty to co-operate with Kent County Council (the children's service authority) in their arrangements to improve the wellbeing of children. The arrangements are to be made with a view to improving the wellbeing of children so far as relating to, physical and mental health and emotional wellbeing; protection from harm and neglect, education, training and recreation; the contribution made by them to society; and social and economic wellbeing.

### **1.4 Financial and Value for Money Considerations**

1.4.1 None.

### **1.5 Risk Assessment**

1.5.1 A risk assessment of all activities and venues for children and young people is undertaken in liaison with the Council's Health and Safety and Insurance Officers.

## **1.6 Policy Considerations**

- 1.6.1 Young People, Safeguarding Children Framework, Sustainable Community Strategy.

## **1.7 Recommendations**

- 1.7.1 It is **RECOMMENDED TO CABINET** that this Council adopts the key priorities outlined in the Kent Children and Young People's Plan 2008-2011 and assists in meeting the Plan's aims by continued multi-agency and partnership work.

The Chief Leisure Officer confirms that the proposals contained in the recommendation(s), if approved, will fall within the Council's Budget and Policy Framework.

Background papers:

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Nil

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